

FREMONT

NEBRASKA PATHFINDERS

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
City Auditorium Meeting Room
7:00pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Request by First United Methodist Church to suspend Ordinance 12-104 to allow Box City event in JCF Park from 7pm on Friday, November 4th through 7am on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.
4. Personnel Discussion – Director of Parks and Recreation
5. Adjournment

Agenda posted at the Municipal Building and distributed to the Mayor, City Council and Park Board on September 16, 2016. The official current copy is available at City Hall, 400 East Military, Parks Department.

A copy of the open Meeting Law is posted for review by the public.

Hello!

My name is Jennifer Mitzelfelt and I am the Director of Christian Education at First United Methodist Church. I am contacting you today to request use of John C. Fremont Park on Friday November 4th from 7 pm to 7 am on Saturday November 5th.

My youth group had the opportunity to attend an event in Omaha this past spring called Box City. It was an event aimed at raising awareness about homelessness and raised money for Youth Emergency Services. They came back from this event inspired and wanting to duplicate this event here in Fremont.

They would like to host a Box City in John C. Fremont Park on World Community Day on Friday November 4th. They would invite other youth groups from Fremont and surrounding communities to participate. There would be a charge to participate, with the money raised going towards homeless efforts here in Fremont. Students would arrive at the park with their own cardboard boxes to sleep in and stay in the park all night long. This event would happen unless there was a blizzard, as homeless people have to endure all types of weather.

The event would start at 7 pm, there would be large group games and we would have a speaker to educate about Homelessness (My youth have a few ideas for this, but we have not asked anyone since we still need to make sure we can use the park.) We would ask that there be no food during this event, as we did not have food during the event we participated in. We are leaning towards renting porta-potties for this event and not having everyone go across the street to our church to use the restroom. We would encourage people to use our parking lots to park. There would be enforced quiet time from 12 am - 6 am (which is when everyone would need to be in their own boxes and quiet). There would be no sharing of boxes, no weapons allowed, each group is required to bring 2 adults and have 1 adult awake at all times. My leadership team would stay awake all night. There would clear boundaries set, so no students would leave the park on their own.

At 6 am we would have students start to wake up and clean up their areas. Each group will be required to take their boxes with them, no trash will be allowed to be left behind. I would ensure that the park was clean before I left, and I would be the last one to leave that morning.

If this is allowed, I would also wonder if I could bring my portable fire pit (I bought it from Wal-Mart for my backyard, it is on legs and has wire mesh cover) so that I could stay warm and awake during the length of the night.

I know this is a huge request given our city ordinances. I know that our city has never done anything like this, at least for as long as I have lived here. I did call and talk to Dorothy at the Parks office, but she informed to write to the Parks board. They do not meet again until October 4. If my group hopes for this event to be successful, I cannot wait that long for an answer. My group would need to start advertising and inviting youth groups before October 4.

I look forward to hearing from each of you. Thank you for your time and your consideration in this manner! Have a blessed day!

"To achieve all that is possible, you must attempt the impossible. To be as much as you can be, you must dream of being more. Your dream is the promise of all you can become." ~Unknown

Jennifer Mitzelfelt

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